

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 04893 082256Z

22

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 /022 W

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R 082230Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2289

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 4893

PASS STEINMETZ/USDA/APHIS AND ANDERSON USDA/FAS FROM AGATT

SAN JOSE FOR DR. WEATHERSBY

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJ: MEAT INSPECTION

REF: STATE 160961

ON JULY 7 WE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OUTLINING STEPS THEY HAVE AND ARE TAKING TO ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM OF EXCESS DDT IN MEAT NOW BEING EXPORTED TO U/S. THIS LETTER IS RESULT OF MEETING AGATRRHELD WITH OWNERS AND MANAGERS OF ALL MEAT EXPORTING PLANTS, LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATIONS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTRIES OF PUBLIC HEALTH, ECONOMY, DEFENSE AND AGRICULTURE. GOG REPRESENTATIVES WERE HEADED BY VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ROHRMANN. AGATT REVIEWED PROBLEM AND CONSEQUENCE IF PROBLEM NOT RESOLVED, OUTLINING STEPS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO ELIMINATE IT. MEASURES SUGGESTED WERE THOSE FURNISHED BY APLDING-USDA/APHIS AND BASICALLY THOSE CONTAINED PIRA 5 REFTL. WEATHERSBY (APHIS) VISIT SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING WAS UTILIZED TO FURTHER EMPHASIZE OUR CONCERN.

AGATT BELIEVES THAT GOG WILL TAKE STEPS OUTLINED IN LETTER PARTICULARLY SINCE MATTER HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF THE PRESIDENT.

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GOG PROGRAM WILL BE MONITORED AND WASHINGTON ADVISED

PERIODICALLY. FREE TRANSLATION OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

"MEASURES TAKEN:

1. A LAW REGULATING THE IMPORTATION, ELABORATION, STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, SALE AND USE OF PESTICIDES WAS ISSUED IN 1974 AS DECREE NO. 43-74.
2. IN 1975, RESTRICTIONS WERE IN EFFECT TO AVOID USAGE OF PESTICIDES OF HIGH RESIDUAL EFFECT IN ANIMALS, FORBIDDING THE USE OF CHLORINATED PRODUCTS.
3. THE USE OF DDT IN AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 40 PERCENT, AS ESTABLISHED BY DECREE NO. 43-74 THAT ESTIMATES AN ANNUAL REDUCTION OF 20 PERCENT.
4. THE PROBLEM AREAS IN THE COUNTRY WERE IDENTIFIED.
5. THE LOTS OF CATTLE FOR SLAUGHTER ARE IDENTIFIED THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS OF SLAUGHTERING, BONING, AND PACKING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS.

MEASURES RECENTLY APPROVED:

1. NORMS WERE ELABORATED TO CONTROL PESTICIDES IN MEAT EXPORT PLANTS, WHICH WILL BE IN EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. THE PURPOSE OF SUCH NORMS IS TO REGULATE SYSTEMS OF IDENTIFICATION OF LOTS, SELECTION OF SAMPLES FOR ANALYSIS AND AVOID SHIPMENT OF MEAT WITH EXCESS RESIDUES.
2. INTEGRATION OF AN INTERMINISTERIAL COMMISSION OF THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE WHICH WILL BE IN CHARGE OF RECOMMENDING AND APPLYING NECESSARY MEASURES TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM.
3. TO ELABORATE PRELIMINARY PLANS OF AN EXECUTIVE LAW WHICH WILL NORM SPECIFICALLY THE USAGE OF RESIDUES IN ANIMALS, AND WHICH WILL ALSO FORBID THE SALE IN THE COUNTRY OF SOME PRODUCTS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS.

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4. MEASURES TO GIVE OUT INFORMATION TO ACHIEVE ADEQUATE USE AND APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES TO AVOID RESIDUES IN ANIMALS.
5. TO ESTABLISH FREQUENT MEETINGS WITH INTERESTED PARTIES SUCH AS GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, CATTLEMEN AND FARMERS, SO THAT JOINTLY THEY MAY TRY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.
6. THE INTERNAL MOVEMENT OF CATTLE WILL BE CONTROLLED TO AVOID

DISPLACEMENT OF ANIMALS COMING FROM CONTAMINATED OR FREE ZONES.

7. PERMANENT VIGILANCE WILL BE MAINTAINED THROUGH THE GENERAL
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUL-
TURE, IN COOPERATION WITH CIVIL AERONAUTICS, ON CROP AREAS
WHERE PESTICIDES ARE USED, MAINLY ON THE COTTON CROP."
ANDREWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD INSPECTION, MEATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GUATEM04893
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760264-0639
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760780/aaaacslk.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 160961
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEAT INSPECTION
TAGS: EAGR, GT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006